THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEI-RO): (a) to (e) The adjudication proceedings against Thapar Group involving an amount of Rs. 14 crores approx. have been initiated by issue of 31 Show Cause Notices. However, the exact amount involved in contravention will be determined on completion of adjudication proceedings in respect of all Show Cause Notices. Out of 31 Show Cause Notices issued, orders have been passed in respect of three show cause notices issued to M/6. Jg. Glass Industries Ltd., Pune. The charge contained in one Show Caiise Notice has been dropped and charges contained in other two show cause notices have been upheld and penalty of Rs. 25,05,000/- and Rs. 1,50,000/- have been imposed on M/sl Jg. Glass Industries Ltd. and Shri S.S. Lall, one of the Directors of the Company. Shri L. M. Thapar undertook to co-operate in adjudication proceedings which implied undertaking to repatriate the amount involved) ! « in FERA violations, determinable in such proceedings. The penalties to be levied and the decision, in respect of launching prosecution would be taken on completion of adjudication proceedings in all the cases.

Setting up of a Central Land Use Commission

3416. DR. G. VTJAY MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether a proposal for settino up of a Central Land Use Commission was mooted in 1972 and if so, the action taken thereon as reported in Patriot of 13th July, 1988;

(b) whether land has been neglected for too long and if so, corrective steps proposed in the matter;

(c) whether N. D. Tiwari Committee on Environment appointed in 1980 has submitted its report and if so. follow up action taken on each of the major recommendations; and

(d) whether these recommendations have proved beneficial for land man agement and control of drought, floods etc.?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI); (a) The issue of the setting up of a Central Land Use Commission was first examined by the Central Government in 1972 and in 1974. The State Governments were requested to set up State Land Use Boards under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers. The State Governments have set up such Boards to review and monitor policies about land management. In its recommendations submitted to the Government in 1980, the Committee which was set up under the Chair-manship of Shri N.D. Tiwari, had recommended the setting up of a Central Land Use Commission. This was accepted by the Government and in February 1983. a two-tier body was set up as follows:—

(i) National Land Board (NLB) and

(ii) National Land Resources Conservation and Develonment, Commission (NLRCDC). In 1985. the two-tier body was re-organised as follows:

(i) National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council (NLWC) with Prime Minister as Chairman. Union Ministers,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Chairman. NWDB and Chief Ministers as Members.

fii) National Land Use and Conservation Boards (NLCB) in place of NLRCDC with Deputy Chairman. Planning Commission as Chairman.

(iii) National Wasteland Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) Land in India has been subject to degradation because of the pressure of human and cattle population and other demands on land in the process of development. The Government of India have been aware of these problems and right from the first Five Year Plan comprehensive programmes have been undertaken to check soil and land degradation. Several Bchemes undertaken are as follows :-

(1) Institutional strengthening for research and implementation of soil conservation programmes.

(2) Intensive soil conservation programmes of the State Governments with Central assistance.

(3) Watershed management programmes.

(4) Desert Development programmes and drought prone areas programme.

(5) Programmes to check deforestation and promote afforestation.

(6) Rural development programmes to promote schemes in sectors other than agriculture which reduce pressure on land.

(c) Yes, Sir. Follow up action taken on each of the major recommendations is as follows:-

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES:

1.1 Recommendation: A Department, of Environment be created in the Central Government to serve as a nodal agency for protection of environment and eco-development and equipped sufficiently to monitor the environment and to review the relevant legislation *on* a continuous basis.

Actio7i *taken:* The Department of Environment was set up with effect from November 1, 1980. It become part of the new Ministry of Environment and Forests which was constituted on 4th January, 1985 by merging the Department of Environment with the Department of Forests and Wildlife of Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry, being the nodal Department in the administrative structure of the Central Government, plays a 'watchdog' role for environmental protection and planning, promotion and coordination of environmental and forestry pro grammes. The Ministry reviews the existing legislation and takes action to amend the legislation, wherever necessary. It discharges the functions recommended by the Committee, including environmental appraisal of development projects, pollution monitoring and regulation, conservation and eco-developmont.

1.2 *Recommendation:* Environmental issues should receive adequate consideration at the highest levels including the Planning Commission.

Action taken; The purpose of this recommendation has been achieved bv establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and consideration of environmental issues at the higher level of Government including the Cabinet as per the Transaction of Business Rules *of* the Government. The Member. Planning Commission in-charge of Natural Resources and Environment deals with the subject in the Planning Commission.

13 Re*conjmendation; A* National Committee on Environmental Planning be constituted to Provide planning and advisory inputs.

Action taken; A high level National Committee on Environmental Planning (NCEP) was set up by the Government on 1st April, 1981 initially for a period of 2 years and was extended by another year. T3ie

Committee was dissolved after the expiry of its terms and a new Committee known as National Environmental Advisory Committee (NEAC) was constituted with effect from 16th January, 1984 with the Minister-in-charge as its chairman for a period of two years.

After the expiry of the term of this Committee it has not been reconstituted. The Government is i considering constHution of a high powered environmental authority to assist the Government in formula tion of policy and to implement Government's policy in all matters concerning environment.

1.4 *Recommendation:* All admi nistrative ministries and aeencies whose plans and programmes have an imnact on environment should develop internal structures to assess environmental imnact and posts of Environmental Adv'sers should be created in shch Ministries.

Action token The administrative mimstries and the project authorities are responsible for preparation of environmental imnact statements as part of the Detailed Project Reports with regard to their developmental projects. It was not felt necessary to create separate posts of Environmental Advisers in various ministries.

1.5 Recommendation: An appro priate Department of State Govern ments be designated to look after environmental protection and tech nical support provided to these De partments.

Action taken; In 87 States and 3 Union Territories, State Governments have set up Department of Environment. In respect of other State, the State Governments have identified the nodal departments.

A scheme for providing assistance to State Departments for strengthening their technical manpower, has been included in the Seventh Pan.

So far 18 States and 4 Union Terri tories have availed of this asistance. Rs. 30.321 lakhs were disbursed du ring 1985-86, Rs. 41.615 lakhs during 1986-87 and Rs. 16.63 lakhs during 1987.88.

1.6 *Recomrrxndation:* Protection of marine eco.systems should be the responsibility of a single Central Agency.

Action taken: The Department of Ocean Development has been given the responsibility for protection of the marine environment and ecosystems.

Coastal pollution is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with the Department of Ocean Development.

1.7 *Recommendation:* Central Land Commission be set up State Land Use Boards as activated to ensure scientific management of land resources.

Action *taken;* In February 1983, the National Land Board (NLB) and National Land Resources Conservation and Development Commission (NLRCDC) were set up. Consequent to the recommendations made by these bodies State Land Use Boards were established or reconstituted in many States. A Committee of experts was also set up to draft a National Land Use Policy.

The NLB and NLRCDC were reor-ganised in 1985 into the National Land Use and Wasteland Development Council (NLWC) (with Prime Minister as Chairman), the National Land Use and Conservation Board (NLCB) and the National Waste-lands Development Board.

The National Land Use Policy was adopted by the NLWC in February, 1986. This policy specially emphasizes the scientific principles of arresting watershed degradation and soil erosion and land degradation through natural or man-made activities.

The State Land Use Boards have been activated and have initiated stews for scientific management of land.

1.8 *Recommendation:* Legislative measures and executive action be taken to curb degradation of environment.

Action taken ; The Government has taken legislative and executive steps to survey and conserve and protect the environment. The Gan-ga Action Plan, the setting up of the National Wastelands Development Board, setting up of eco-task forces of ex-servicemen for taking up regeneration works in Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir and initiation of several eco-regeneration schemes are the steps taken to regenerate degraded parts of environment.

19. *Recommendation:* Fuel and fodder supply be included in the minimum needs programme.

Action taken: Rural fuel wood plantation has been included in the minimum needs programme during the seventh Five Year Plan, from 1985-86. It was not considered necessary to include fodder supply in the programme.

2. PERSONNEL

Rcwnmsiidrition: Adequate trainer? manpower must be developed for environmental protection.

Action taken: Availability of trained manpower is achieved through trainin? activities in environmental management, pollution control and forestry to the relevant groups. Intensive training is imparted to Forest Officers at the National Forest Academy, the State Forest Pervice Colleges, and the Forest Ranger Colleges. The Wild-life Institute of India, Dehradun, was set up in 1982, to train personnel for expanding network of national parks and sanctuaries.

3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Reconmendatwn; Steps be taken towards environmental education and awareness.

Action taken: The Department gives priority for promoting environmental education, dissemination of information and creation of awareness among all groups through various programmes such as. semi nars, exhibitions, ecological clubs and eco-development camps. The Department organises annually National Environment Awareness Campaign and National Environmental Month with main thrust on the promotion of better understanding of the importance of protection of environment and nature.

The National Museum of Natural History, an organisation of the Ministry, serves to achieve the objectives by conducting exhibitions, educaitonal programmes and lectures study tours, films shows, etc., for school children and teachers. The Centre for Environment Education. Ahmedabad assisted bv the Government prepares high quality educational material for children of urban/rural communities which include guide books and fllustrative document projecting nature and natural resources.

4. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Recommendation; Problems of environmental aspects of human settlements be studied.

Action *taken:* The erstwhile Ministry of Works snd Housing had constituted in pursuance of the recommendations of the T'wari Committee, an expert committee to consider the environmental aspects of Human settlements in August, 1982. The Committee submitted its report on 31st December. 1984., eiving various recommendations regarding environmental aspects of human settlements.

Environmental considerations are taken into account in the planning of new settlements and in the growth of existing settlements, as far as posible. Guidelines for the development of new towns and contonments have been issued .

5. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

5.1 *Recommendation-*. A National Environmental Policy Resolution be adopted.

Action *taken:* A National Envir-mental Policy Resolution has not been adopted. However, the various legislations for environmental protection are in consonance with the principles contained in the draft resolution suggested by the Committee.

5.2 *Recommendation;* Existing le gislations be reviewed and strength ened.

A ction *taken;* The existing laws have been reviewed. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. 1974 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are being amended comprehensively. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has I been amended to regulate trade in ivory, to totally ban dealings in specified animals and articles made therefrom and to enhance penalties for offenders. Amendments bave been made in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1951 to ensure ecologically sound management of mining areas. A revised National Forest Policy is under consideration of the Government and amendments to the In-dian Forest Act. 1927 will ho considered after the proposed revision. The Factories Act has been review-pi and amended. Amendments to the Merchant shinoine Act and Motor Vehicles Act are being considered

5 3 Recommendation: New legis lation be enacted in areas of relev ance.

Action *taken;* The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. 1981 was enacted and comprehensive amendments have been made in the Act in 1987 to make it more effective. The Environment (Frotec tion) Act, 1986 enables the protection of environment in a comprehensive manner. Based on guidelines and.a model bil circulated by tho Central Government, six State-Governments have enacted suitable legislation to orevent over-fishing in coastal waters.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Import of Palm Oil by STC

3417. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Stato Tradincr Coroorat'On has contracted for imrwirt of palm oil from Malaysia on "CIF" basis instead of "FOB":

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above Indian ShippinC lines are losing freight to other fin'.' vessels; and

(c) if so the reasons for STC's preferring "CIF' clause to "FOB"?

THF MTWTSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. P.R .AS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Presentlv. STC is imoorting palm oill from Malavsia on CIF basis. STC has. however been trying to utilise Indian bottoms to the extent available from time to time to comoetitive raest. Between the period January 1986 to .July. 1987 Indian ftag vessels have been utilised for about 37 vov-aPos representing 3 per cent of the carriage of oalm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia to India.

STC has been asked to explore possibilitips of FOB! imports keening in view the fact that edible oil being a Sensitive item of mass human consumption has to be made available as per the programme given by the Government.